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S E C R E T AMMAN 000931

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#) [MEPP](#)

SUBJECT: FM MUASHER'S READOUT OF KING ABDULLAH'S 2/8

MEETING WITH MUBARAK AND DOV WEISGLASS' 2/9 VISIT TO AMMAN

Classified By: CDA Gregory L. Berry. Reasons 1.5 (b,d).

1. (U) Charge called FonMin Muasher February 10 to get a readout of the King's 2/8 meeting in Aqaba with Egyptian President Mubarak, as well as of Muasher's own meeting with Sharon advisor Dov Weisglass the previous day (2/9) in Amman.

Mubarak/Abdullah: Opposed to an Early Summit on Iraq

2. (S) Muasher said that the King and Mubarak agreed to continue working (along with the Saudis) to block any attempt to move forward the date of the Arab League Summit to the first week of March. Convening an early summit, the two leaders agreed, would serve no useful purpose toward addressing the Iraq problem. Muasher commented that "Libya, Tunisia, Qatar and Amr Mousa" are exerting the strongest pressure for an early summit. Muasher said he believed a final decision on the issue could be deferred until the February 15-16 Arab League Ministerial in Cairo.

Weisglass Visit: Israelis Stressing the Positive

3. (S) Muasher then provided the Charge a summary of the "long discussion" he and Dov Weisglass had on the Roadmap and other related MEPP issues the previous day (Sharon Advisor Shalom Turgeman, Israeli Ambassador to Jordan David Dadon, and Jordanian Charge to Israel Mazen Tal also participated in the meeting). Weisglass, he said, came with the aim of convincing Muasher that the Roadmap changes the GOI is considering are "not substantial." Muasher said he responded by questioning "if that was indeed the case, why were any changes needed at all?" (Note: On 2/9, Muasher's Personal Assistant, Ali al-Ayed (who had also been in the meeting) told A/PolCouns that Muasher had "stressed to Weisglass three times" that the Roadmap is a package and should not be altered at all: "If you open it up for any amendment, others will want to do the same and it will fall apart" Muasher said, according to al-Ayed. End Note)

4. (S) Muasher said he then explained at length to Weisglass the importance of reenergizing the Arab League initiative, noting that it "brought the entire Arab world on board" According to Muasher, Weisglass listened attentively, appeared to understand and respond to Muasher's logic, and promised to repeat Muasher's argument to Sharon upon his return.

5. (S) On the issue of Israeli insistence that there has to be progress in "Phase I" (i.e. shifting Arafat out of power) before there can be movement on other fronts, Muasher said he stressed to Weisglass that Israel must provide "clarity on its end game" before it could expect the Arab world to contribute positively: "To the extent you (Israel) are prepared to be clear on the end game, you will find the Arab world will be prepared to be with you."

6. (S) Summing up, Muasher noted that this was Weisglass's first visit to Jordan and that, as such, he is reluctant to read too much into it -- but that clearly the Israelis came wanting to appear positive.

BERRY